(d) The original Revival Scheme was approved by the BIFR subsidiary-wise in April, 2002. Subsequently, a Modified Scheme (MRS-08) for NTC has been approved by BIFR on 05.09.2008.

(e) As per MRS-08, the period of implementation of revival scheme for NTC has been extended upto 31.03.2009. The total cost of MRS-08 is Rs. 9102 crores which is self financing. The resources are to be generated by sale of assets of closed mills and surplus assets of viable mills. Through MRS-08, BIFR has approved closure of 12 more mills. MRS-08 has also recommended writing off of Government loan and waiver of interest thereon, as on 31.03.2007. In addition, various reliefs and concessions on Income Tax, Wealth Tax, Capital Gain Tax *etc.* have also been approved by BIFR.

Consultants for evaluating TUF

1855. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether consultants have been appointed to study and submit report on evaluating Textile Upgradation Fund (TUF);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the report has been submitted;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the action taken on the report; and

(f) if not, by when the report will be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

Weaver handloom hubs losing out to powerloom industry in Andhra Pradesh

1856. SHRI C. RAMA CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the major weaver handloom hubs namely Charmavaram, Hindupur, Udavakunda, Rajadurgam and Pochampalli in Andhra Pradesh are losing out to powerloom industry because of power cuts;

(b) if so, whether Government is taking steps to address the issue as it happens to be the prime cause to aggravate the debt-driven suicides in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No such reports have been received from the State Government.

(b) to (d) The Ministry of Textiles, Government of India constituted a High-level Committee headed by MD, NABARD to look into the problems of high cost of working capital and choking of credit lines in the handloom sector. The Financial Package for Handloom Sector worth Rs. 2600 crore has been sent to Ministry of Finance for their approval. This financial package to handloom sector, *inter-alia* provides:—

(i) Waiver of overdue loans and interest in respect of Handloom Weavers/PWCs/Apex Societies.

(ii) Financing the credit needs of handloom weavers/societies at 7% rate of interest with interest subvention to NABARD and banks from Government of India.

Textile mills shifting to South India

1857. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) how many sick mills have been restored and rehabilitated during United Progressive Alliance (U.P.A.) Government;

(b) what is the background of more and more textile mills shifting to South India particularly around Coimbatore district, when the raw materials (cotton) have to come from North India; and

(c) the major threats faced or being faced by textile mills and the measures taken or being taken to avert such threats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Details of cases of sick mills registered and restored and rehabilitated during, United Progressive Alliance (U.P.A.) Government is at Statement. (*See* below)

(b) As per the reports received from Regional office of the Textile Commissioner, Coimbatore no shifting of textile mills from other parts of the country is reported. As per record of this office during the period 2004-05 to December, 2008 (upto 15th December, 2008), new 365 textile mills from the southern region *i.e.*, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry were enlisted as against this only 23 textile mills from the Northern Region, *i.e.*, Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal were enlisted during the corresponding period.

(c) Rising cost of input, stiff competitive global market and higher borrowing cost are the major threats faced by the textile industry. Government have been taking continuing measures to promote textile industry and export segment. Among the major steps Government has of late made the following changes:—

- General reduction of 4% in CENVAT rates. As a result, the textile machinery will have CENVAT of 10% and Non-cotton textile will have 4% CENVAT vide Notification No.58/2008-CE dated 07.12.2008
- Rate of duty on cotton textile and the textile articles has been reduced from 4% to Nil vide Notification No. 58/2008-CE dated 07.12.2008